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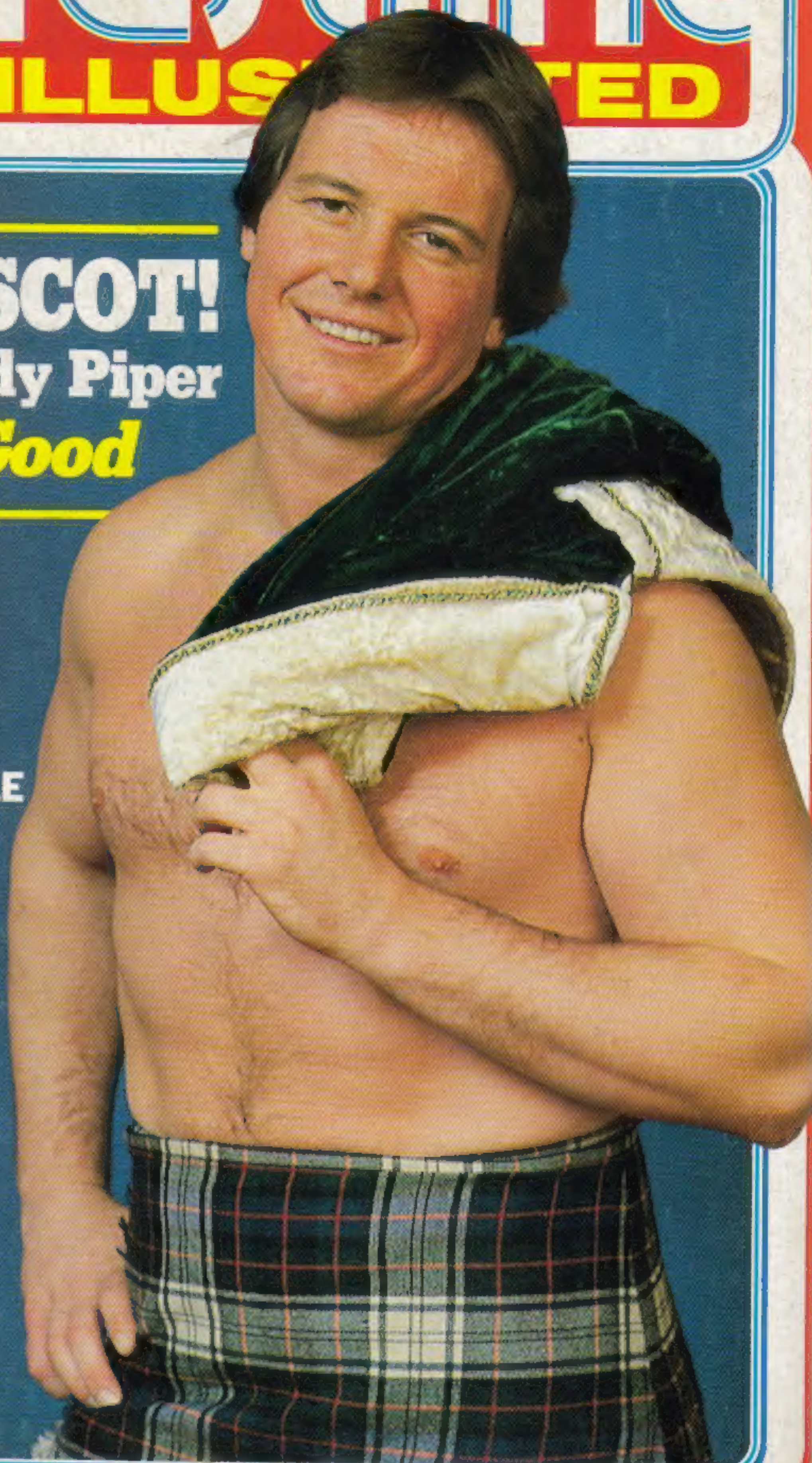
GREAT SCOT!

Rowdy Roddy Piper
Turns Good

Fallout From The
T.A.-Koloff Wars:
WILL THE U.S. TITLE
BECOME THE
U.S.S.R. TITLE?

STEVE SIMPSON:
"DON'T COMPARE
ME TO THE
VON ERICHS!"

PRESS
CONFERENCE:
JIMMY SNUKA



RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

THE WWF MADE headlines and history when it drew a crowd estimated between 65,000 and 70,000, the largest in the sport's history, to Exhibition Stadium in Toronto for an August 28 card. In the main event, **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Paul Orndorff** by disqualification when manager **Bobby Heenan** interfered with a chair. In another match, **John Studd**, **King Kong Bundy**, and Heenan defeated **Big Machine**, **Super Machine**, and **Lou Albano** by disqualification.

The previous high attendance for a wrestling card was 43,518 for the 1984 Texas Parade of Champions featuring **Kerry Von Erich** vs. **Ric Flair**. Dropping to third place is the 1980 **Bruno Sammartino-Larry Zbyszko** cage match at Shea Stadium, which drew 40,995. The Shea Stadium card drew a gate of \$550,000, which was the previous cash record. With prices for the Toronto card ranging between \$10 and \$20, the gate—and the new cash record—is estimated to be near the \$1 million mark.

The vacant World Class tag team title was finally filled on Labor Day in Fort Worth, Texas, when **Buzz Sawyer** and **Matt Borne** won a tournament for the belts, defeating **Chris Adams** and **Lance Von Erich**.

As I watched the tape of the tournament, it occurred to me how ironic it would have been for Adams to regain a share of the title. The belts, last held by Adams and the late **Gino Hernandez**, were vacated last September and never filled. Adams, who had feuded wildly with the Von Erichs, now had the chance to win back the title alongside a former rival.

But it was not to be. Borne and Sawyer were very impressive, and



Lance Von Erich shifts his weight in the middle of a Buzz Sawyer-attempted suplex. Lance will land behind Buzz and push him into the ropes for an attempted rollup pin. Sawyer and Matt Borne defeated Von Erich and Chris Adams to fill the vacant World class tag team title on Labor Day.

over the course of the tournament, disposed of all three active Von Erichs: **Kevin**, **Mike**, and **Lance**. They defeated Kevin and Mike in the first round, **Kevin Sullivan** and **Mark Lewin** in the second round, and **Chris** and **Mark Youngblood** in the semis, before Sawyer reversed a Lance cradle in the finals to win the belts.

Borne and Sawyer, who have been teaming up on and off in the World Class, have maintained an intense training schedule over the past month in preparation for the tournament. "We couldn't have been more ready," said Sawyer. "This was what

we were looking forward to, first knocking off some Von Erichs and then winning the tournament. We were very confident going in and expected to win. As usual, we did."

Steve Simpson, who continues to be left out in the World Class cold, did not compete in the tournament. The young South African was unable to compete due to a leg injury sustained in a match against Buzz Sawyer several days earlier. The big Labor Day card also saw World Class champion Chris Adams win by disqualification over **Rick Rude**.

The third annual Battle of the Belts
(Continued on page 54)

DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks



Roddy Piper lifts his arms in response to the fans. But don't be fooled—Piper is not seeking their approval. He still feels the same way about the fans, and Stu Saks thinks the fans should not change their opinion of him so quickly.

I WILL NOT be burned by Roddy Piper again. If you people want to trust him or if Hulk Hogan and the boys want to trust him, that's fine. But for myself, no sir, never again.

The headline screams across the cover of this magazine, and, frankly, I was opposed to it: "Great Scot! Rowdy Roddy Piper Turns Good!"

Great Scot, indeed. A guy spends over two years in an area

badmouthing every decent human being, he humiliates a man by squishing tropical fruit in his face, he cuts a struggling preliminary wrestler to ribbons, he physically assaults a skinny record producer, he's voted Most Hated Wrestler. The list goes on and on and on.

Forget all of that, though. Roddy Piper hates Adrian Adonis. He must be a good fella after all. That's what the majority of the fans believe. Based on the one

encounter Piper had with Adrian Adonis on "The Flower Shop" where he demanded his time slot back and chewed out Bob Orton for becoming Adonis' "Acey," the office of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* was besieged by letters dripping with praise for the Rowdy Scot. Hulk Hogan, the prototype solid citizen, the man who has fought off WWF slime for almost three years, was shoved into the number two spot in the Most Popular ratings, while Roddy Piper, who never helps anybody but himself, claimed the prestigious number one position.

I don't like Piper. Yet I don't blame him for how the fans think about him. He didn't come before the people proclaiming that he had seen the light, that he will never do bad again, that he now realizes how much he needs the fans. He still says he doesn't care about the fans, he still says he doesn't like Hulk Hogan, and he says he will still wrestle any way he sees fit. All he wants is his TV time back.

Thumbs up to Roddy Piper for being honest, but thumbs down to Roddy Piper for . . . well, for being Roddy Piper. He is not a good person. He is not one for the fans to look up to and he is certainly not one to be trusted as an ally in

(Continued on page 62)

WFOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS—FINALLY!

Well, all I can say is: It's about time.

I can hardly believe it. Exactly one full year went by before the vacant World Class tag team title was filled. Formerly held by Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez, the title was declared vacant in September 1985 when they were wrestling in a title defense against Kerry and Kevin Von Erich. The referee for that match, David Manning, ruled that Gino and Chris were too blatantly trying to disqualify themselves. As a result, Manning declared the title vacant.

And now, one year later, there are new champions. Buzz Sawyer and Matt Borne won the belts in the final round of a Labor Day tournament by defeating Chris Adams and Lance Von Erich in Ft. Worth, Texas.

An interesting footnote to the tournament results: Sawyer and Borne are not a new tag team combination. They've teamed together on several occasions in the past, and have held several tag team titles, including the Pacific Northwest tag team belts. Back in 1980, they held the Mid-Atlantic tag team titles—that's Borne on the left and Sawyer on the right in this vintage photo, looking quite different than they do today!



Matt Borne & Buzz Sawyer—circa 1980

MACHINE NAUSEA!

I don't want to come across sounding like Eddie Ellner (Lord knows even if I did, I doubt I could ever pull in as much hate mail as Eddie does!), but I feel it's time to speak out on a pretty ridiculous thing that the WWF is doing. Okay, okay, I know—be more specific. There're *plenty* of ridiculous things that the WWF is doing these days.

This one happens to be The Machines. I mean, come on! Hulk Machine? Steele Machine? Giant Machine? Is there any wrestling fan on the face of the globe who honestly believes that Giant Machine is not Andre the Giant? That Hulk Machine is not Hulk Hogan?

Okay, maybe I'm not getting the point. Obviously everyone is supposed to know that The Machines are who they are. But if that's the case, why bother with the charade? To annoy Bobby Heenan? First of all, is he worth all that trouble? Second of all, isn't Heenan right? If Andre is suspended, shouldn't he be suspended whether or not he's wearing a mask?

In actuality, it appears to me that Andre is just dancing around the loopholes in the rulebook, just as Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. did last year when they wrestled briefly as The James Boys. Certain stipula-



Super Machine & Giant Machine

tions for masked wrestlers mean that a wrestler who is banned can come back under a mask and continue to wrestle.

It's patently ridiculous, and it's

a loophole that should be closed immediately, or else more of these absurd charades will continue to bruise the integrity of this great sport.

LOOKING AHEAD—HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Last year, in the January edition of "In Focus," I asked readers to send in their predictions for 1986. Many of those predictions were printed in the March 1986 year-end double issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, and some of them were quite prophetic.

Terry Gill of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for example, predicted that *Fred Blassie will retire due to health reasons*. (He has gone into semi-retirement, selling off half interest in his stable to Slick.) Lory Pack of Victoria City, Texas, predicted that *Billy Jack*

Haynes will leave Wahoo McDaniel shortly after losing the U.S. tag team title. (He did.)

Other predictions were not so prophetic, but then they were silly to begin with: Steve Scholten of Northville, New York, said that *"Vince McMahon" will try to recruit "Nature Boy" Ric Flair for \$10 million. Flair will accept, but send Buddy Landell to the WWF where Vince and the announcers won't be able to tell the difference*.

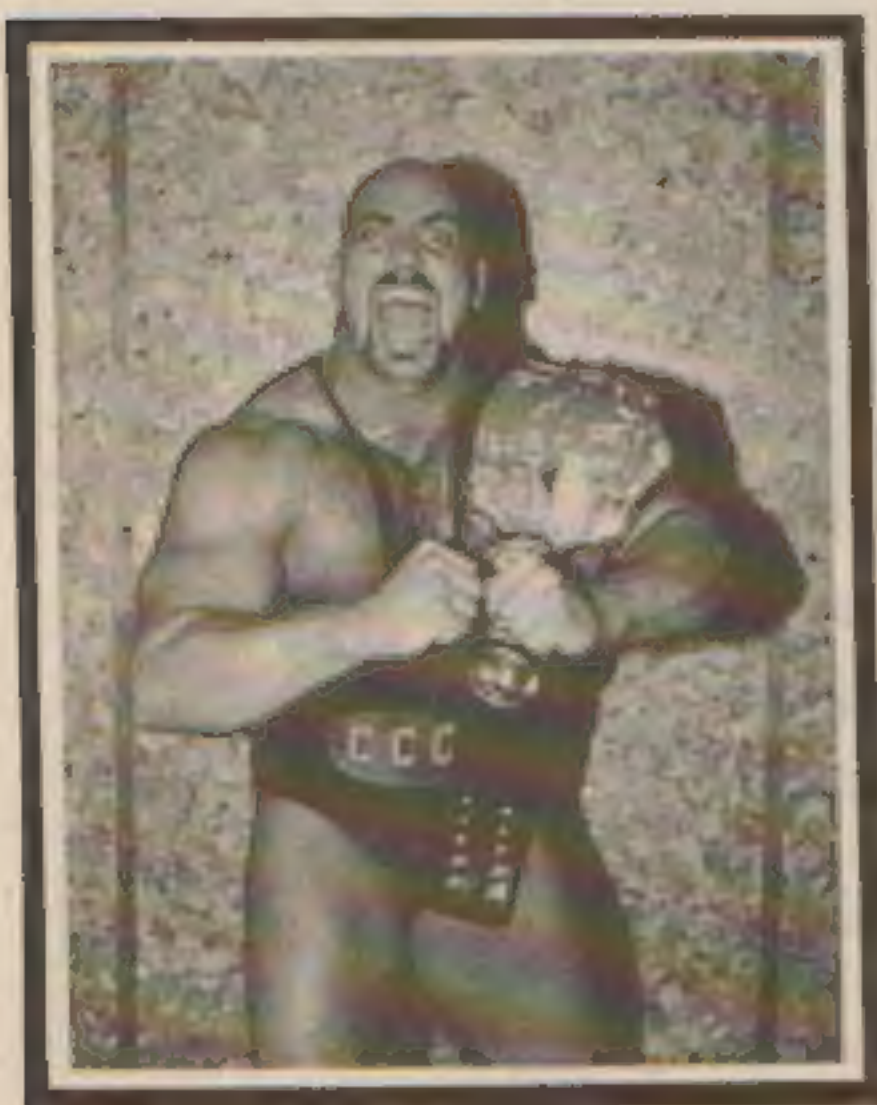
The time has come to ask for your predictions of what will happen in the sport of wrestling in

1987.

I want them all: serious, silly, ridiculous, and outrageous—you name it. And you don't have to send just one prediction. In fact, the more the merrier—send along 100 predictions if you can come up with them! The best predictions for 1987 will be printed in the March 1987 year-end double issue of *PWI*.

Shine up those crystal balls and send your prognostications to: Predictions 1987 c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York 11571. □

Fallout From The WILL THE U.S. TITLE BECOME THE U.S.S.R. TITLE?



American wrestling fans might be in for a shock. Nikita Koloff is apparently under orders by the Kremlin to change the name of the United States championship and a little known NWA bylaw might make this both possible and legal

JUST MOMENTS AFTER Nikita Koloff pinned Magnum T.A. in Charlotte, North Carolina, to complete a 4-3 victory in the U.S. title series, the private red phone in the Russian's dressing room lit up. Although it was impossible to tell what the person on the other side of the line was saying, Nikita's half of the conversation (translated into English) went like this:

"Yes, Comrade Zubruski."

"Thank you, Comrade Zubruski."

"It is very possible, Comrade Zubruski."

"I will ask my Uncle to work on it right away, Comrade Zubruski."

"We will take care of it as soon as possible, Comrade Zubruski."

"I will follow your orders to the letter, Comrade Zubruski."

"I believe that is a fine name for it, Comrade Zubruski."

"Thank you again, Comrade Zubruski, and please say hello to the General. Tell him that the plan is being carried out."

Fortunately, United States intelli-

gence files had some information on the mysterious Comrade Zubruski, the man on the other end of the line. Zubruski, a high ranking Kremlin aid, is the official secretary to General Valery Kharnovsky, senior member of the Soviet Council on the Control and Development of Athletics. He is responsible for dispensing information to Soviet

athletes who are away from the home base.

"Mr. Zubruski is a relatively harmless fellow," said a government source. "It's the people who he works for that concern us. The Soviet Union seems intent on proving its supposed superiority over the rest of the world by winning every major sports champion-



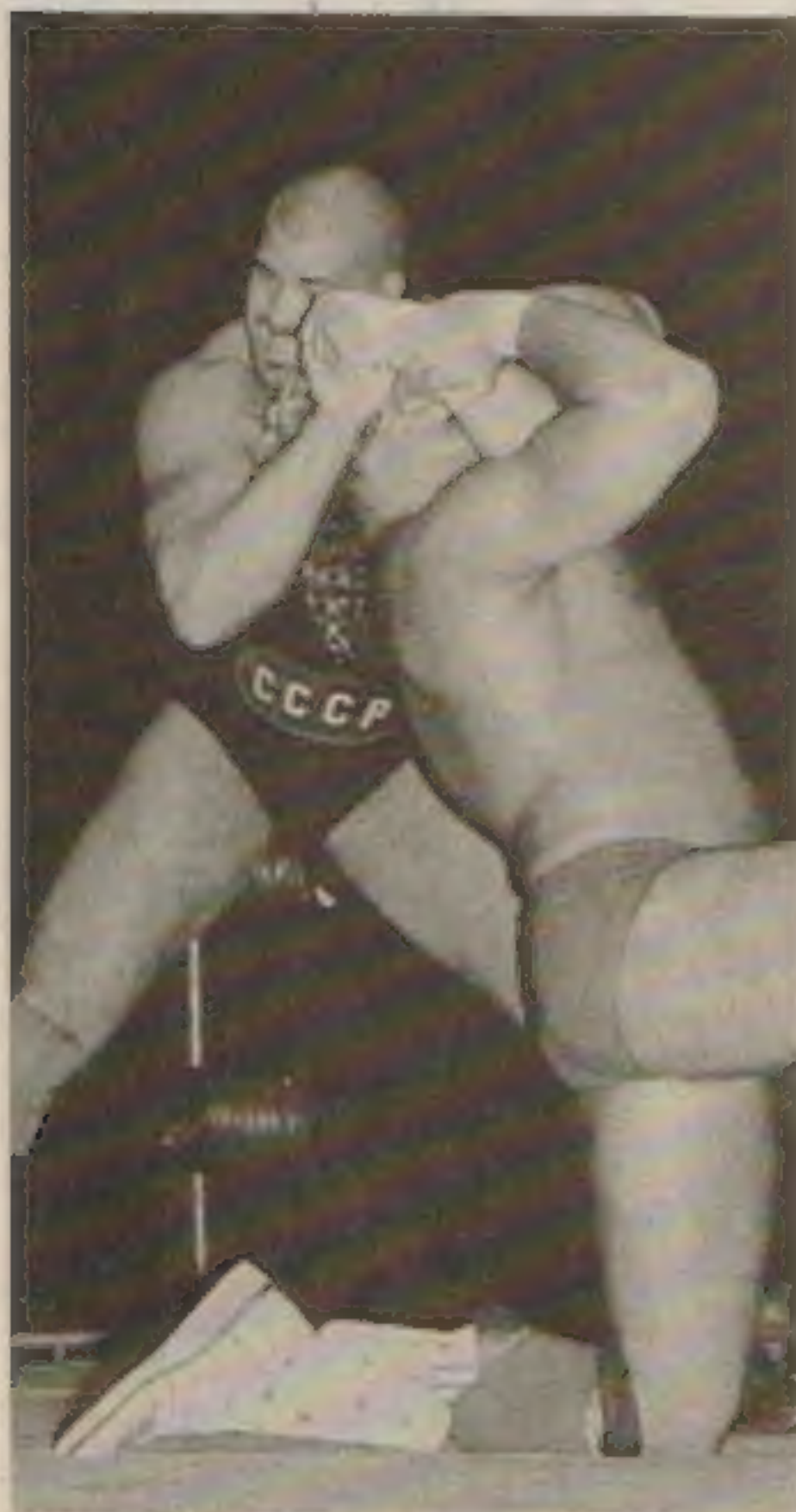
Nikita Koloff pries Magnum T.A. off the ropes and flings him across the ring (above). NWA President Bob Geigel tries to get a good view of the action between Koloff and T.A. along the ropes (opposite page). Koloff revels in his glory (top).

T.A.-Koloff Wars: —



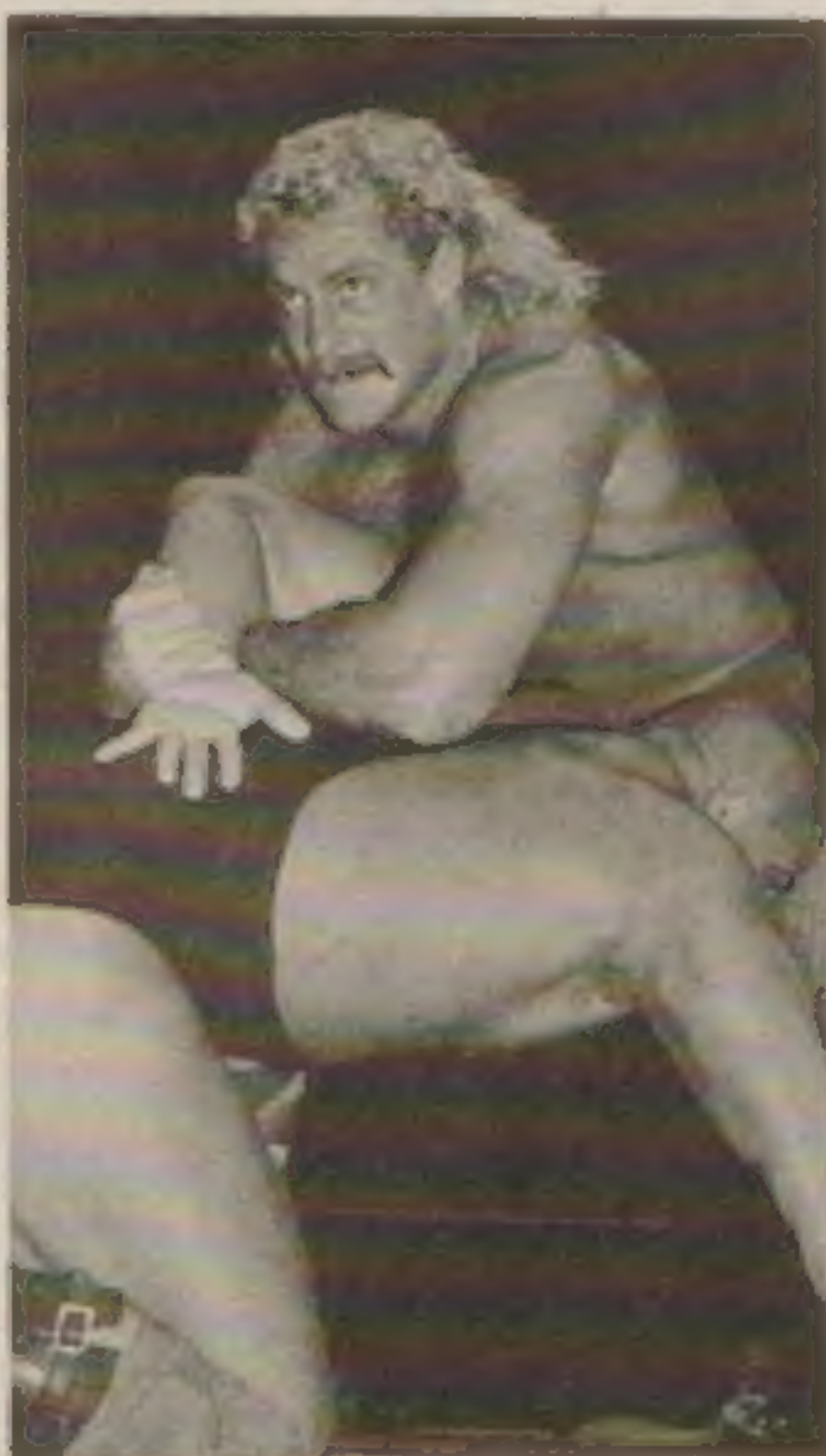


Magnum tries to force Koloff into a pinning combination, but the Russian keeps his left shoulder off the mat (above). A test of strength brings T.A. to his knees (below left). Nikita will trip out Magnum to escape his hammerlock (below right).



ship and honor. I mean, let's face it, they've used the Olympic Games for their own political means for years. I know that sports is nothing compared to the subject of world peace, but it's all tied in together. Neither can be ignored."

Of course, there are ways to solve this problem. The United States government could place a wire tap on



Nikita Koloff's telephone and keep him under constant surveillance, but this would be against the ideals and practices of a democratic society. After all, American citizens still have not forgotten the Watergate break-in and the Nixon wiretaps. Similar actions against even the most subversive influences could not be tolerated.

So, the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* decided to go right to the source. Assistant Editor Jeff Ryan has friends in the Pentagon and was able

to get a direct line to Zubruski, but the call was totally in vain. As would be expected, Zubruski refused to answer any of Ryan's questions and left us where we started. But his defensiveness made it readily apparent that the Soviet Union had something up its collective sleeve.

A press conference with Nikita the following day would verify these suspicions.

"Some day, I will take belt back to my country, but now I want to embarrass all of you weak Americans," boasted Nikita after one of his early title defenses against Magnum. "I want to show all of you the superiority of the Russian people. We have become most powerful nation in entire world and are very proud of what we have accomplished. Then, after I have proven our greatness, I will return to Soviet Union and share the U.S.S.R. title with my comrades."

Then what?

"This is a free, capitalist society and Mr. Koloff is allowed to call his title anything he wants," said NWA President Bob Geigel. "As far as we are concerned, however, the United States title is still the United States title and there will be no name change. This is not permitted under the official NWA guidelines, although Nikita may defend the belt in the Soviet Union if he wishes, as long as he makes a United States defense every 30 days."

There is, however, an obscure and rather unclear paragraph in the NWA rulebook that has confounded every student of wrestling law *PWI* spoke with. This paragraph, legally referred to as "Subsection 4-C," states that "a champion has the power to suggest and implement improvements for the dignity and further visibility of his title."

But what does this mean? Right now, it's hard to say, but some lawyers have interpreted "Subsection 4-C" as giving a champion general power over his title. In other words, Nikita Koloff can do whatever he wants with the U.S. belt, including a name change.

If so, the good ol' red, white, and blue is in for further embarrassment. □

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

**PRESS
CONFERENCE
JIMMY
SNUKA**

JIMMY SNUKA HAS been through the wringer during his controversial wrestling career. He started out as a fan favorite in the Pacific Northwest but in the late 1970s became one of the most hated men in the Mid-Atlantic region. When Snuka came to the WWF in 1982 under the management of Capt. Lou Albano, he retained his rulebreaking ways and engaged in a series of classic matches with WWF World champion Bob Backlund. It was in one of those bouts at Madison Square Garden when Snuka made wrestling history with his now-famous "superfly" off the top of a steel cage.

But things have changed since those unstable days. Snuka took on Buddy Rogers as his manager, began an incredible feud with Roddy Piper, and suddenly became one of the most loved wrestlers in the country. He teamed with his cousin, The Tonga Kid, to take on Piper and Co., and aligned himself with Hulk Hogan.

The Tonga Kid left the WWF short-



ly thereafter, however, and Snuka followed suit. The native Fijian took a few months off before resurfacing in Hawaii and then in California. There was some talk that Snuka had had enough of big-time wrestling, with its pressures and hassles, and opted for the smaller promotions

and their relative serenity.

Snuka couldn't resist the spotlight, however, and on April 20 made his AWA debut at WrestleRock '86, teaming with Greg Gagne to defeat Nord the Barbarian and Bruiser Brody in a cage match.

It was as if he had never left the spotlight. Snuka was immediately adopted by the AWA fans and continued his high flying style, even though he was a few pounds away from top form. He is currently at odds with Col. DeBeers and going after Buddy Rose and Doug Somers' AWA World tag team title, but more than anything he wants a shot at Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World title.

Editor-in-Chief Peter King, Senior Editor Bill Apter, and Managing Editor Stu Saks recently traveled to Chicago, where they spoke with Snuka at a most unusual place—the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs (Snuka loves baseball)—where he spoke about the twists and turns his career has taken and the direction it is now headed.



"Jimmy Snuka is a professional wrestler; it is in his blood. To have done something else would have been to leave a part of myself behind, and that is not good for the soul."

STU SAKS: I haven't been to a baseball game all year and here I am in Wrigley watching the Cubs play the Houston Astros. Anybody have a Mets score?

PETER KING: This really is strange. Now I'll have to go to Shea when we get back just so I don't feel guilty about going to a Cubs game. To tell you the truth, Jimmy, I was shocked when you said that you wanted to conduct the interview here. I never knew that you were a baseball fan.

JIMMY SNUKA: Well, Peter, what else is a Polynesian boy supposed to be? Cricket is a popular sport in my country, and baseball is similar, yet quicker and far more exciting.

BILL APTER: I can't imagine you playing cricket.

SNUKA: No, brother Bill, I enjoy watching all sports, but my body is more suited to the ring than anywhere else. My mind desires the thrill that comes from individual competition, one man against another. Baseball or cricket do not provide that, although I

(Continued on page 56)



Jimmy Snuka weakens Playboy Buddy Rose with a headlock (opposite page) and, minutes later, pins Rose's partner, Doug Somers, to win the match (above). Snuka's return to full-time action in the AWA has pleased fans all across the country.

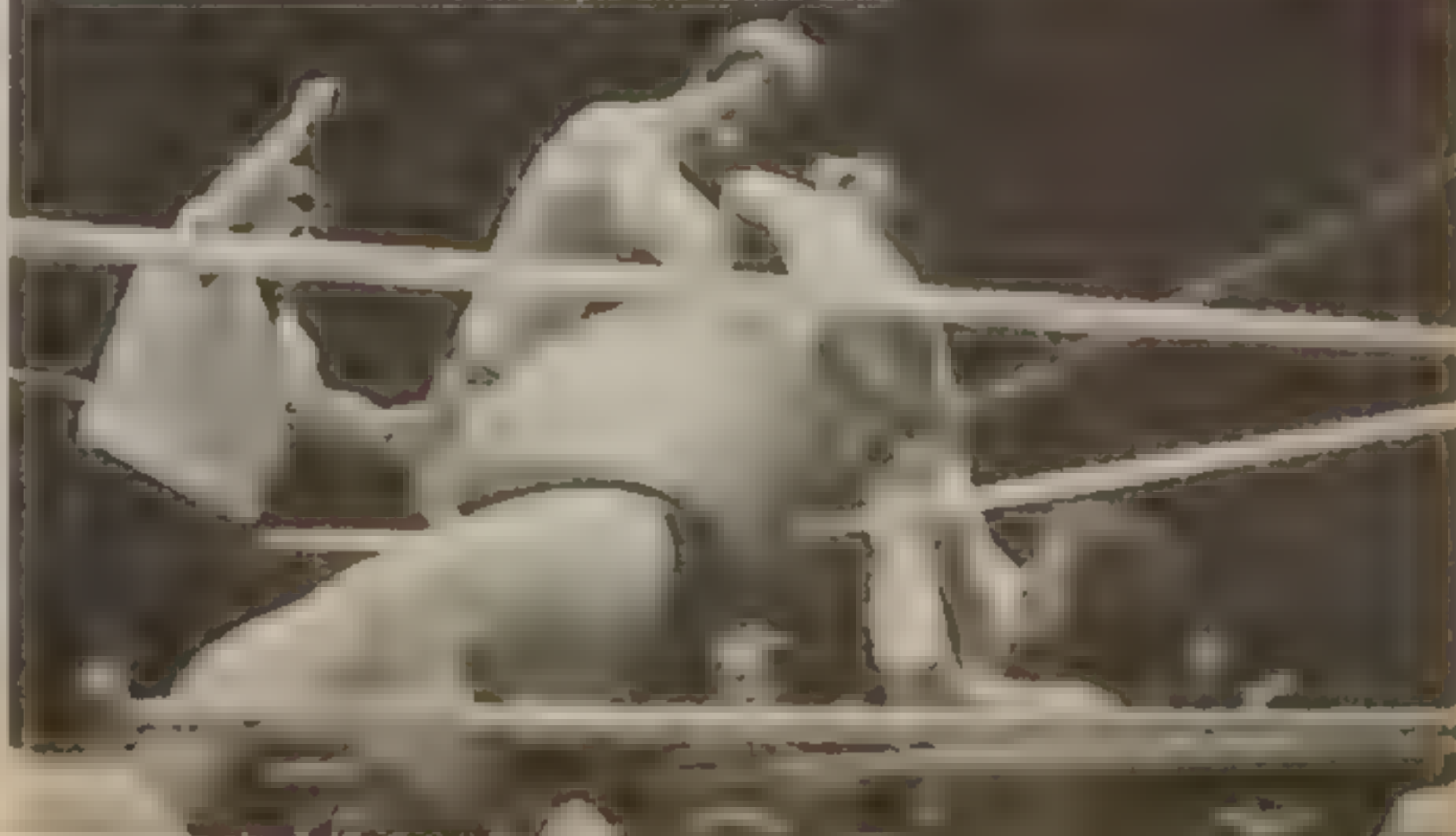
GREAT SCOT!

Rowdy Roddy Piper Turns Good

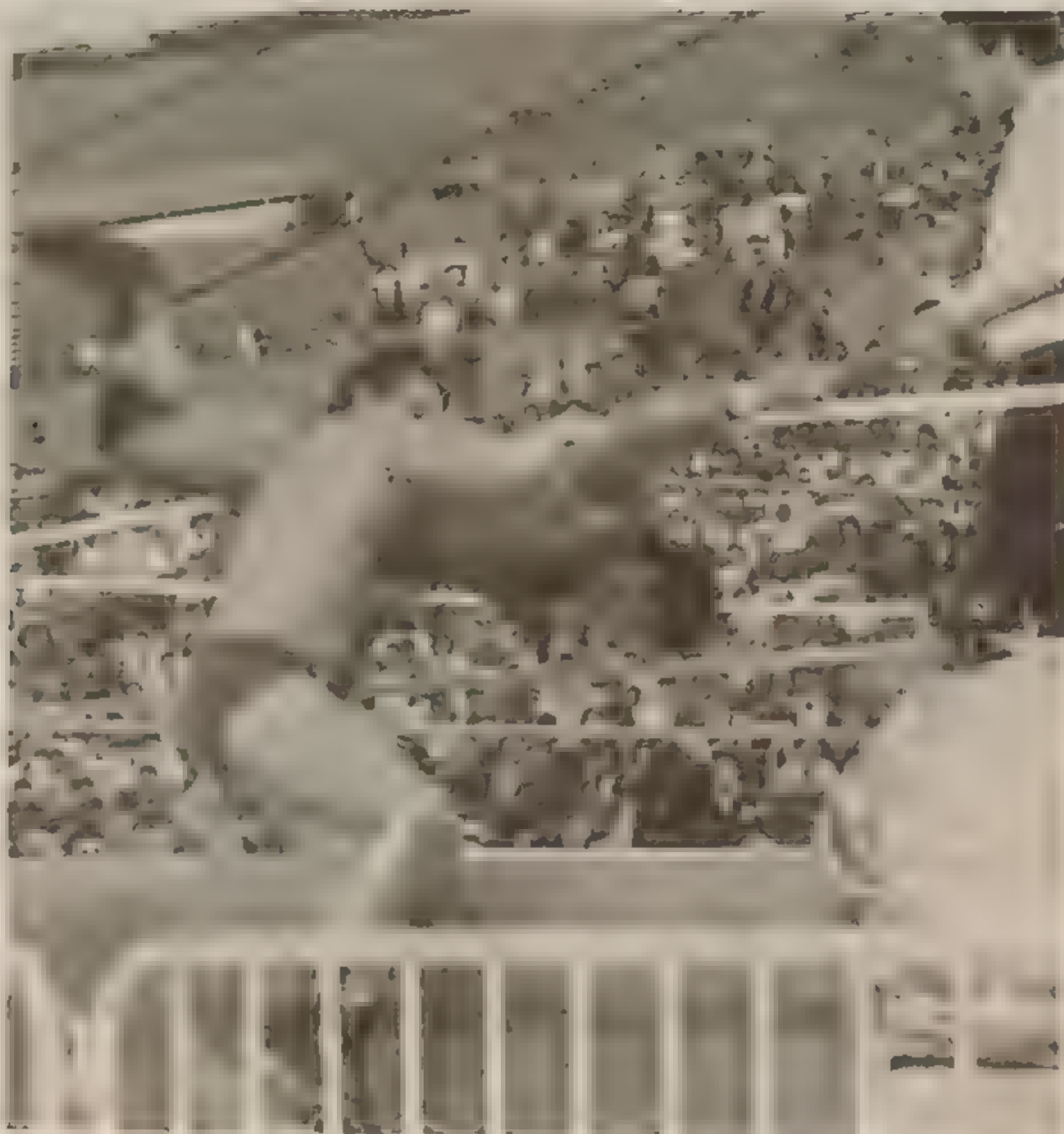
THE WORLD ACCORDING to Roddy Piper hasn't changed. He still feels the same way he always has, still doesn't like Hulk Hogan, isn't too crazy about the fans, and cares very little about people's feelings for him. To Roddy Piper, the now famous incident on "The Flower Shop" represented nothing more than him getting (rightfully) mad at Adrian Adonis. That's it. Hollywood hasn't changed Rowdy Roddy.

That's Piper's story. But to almost any observer of the World Wres-

With a little help from his friends, Roddy Piper and Hulk Hogan back Andre the Giant into the ropes and choke him.



One of the most hated men in the history of wrestling is now being embraced by the fans. And although he has teamed up with Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper insists that nothing has changed: He's the same man he always was



Above: Roddy Piper's first WWF ring appearance following his filming of the movie *Body Slam* was this match against Magnificent Muraco, part of the "King Of The Ring" tournament in Massachusetts in July. Below: Piper takes punishment from Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania I. Once bitter enemies, Piper and Hogan are still not close enough to be considered friends, but they have buried their differences to become tag team partners.

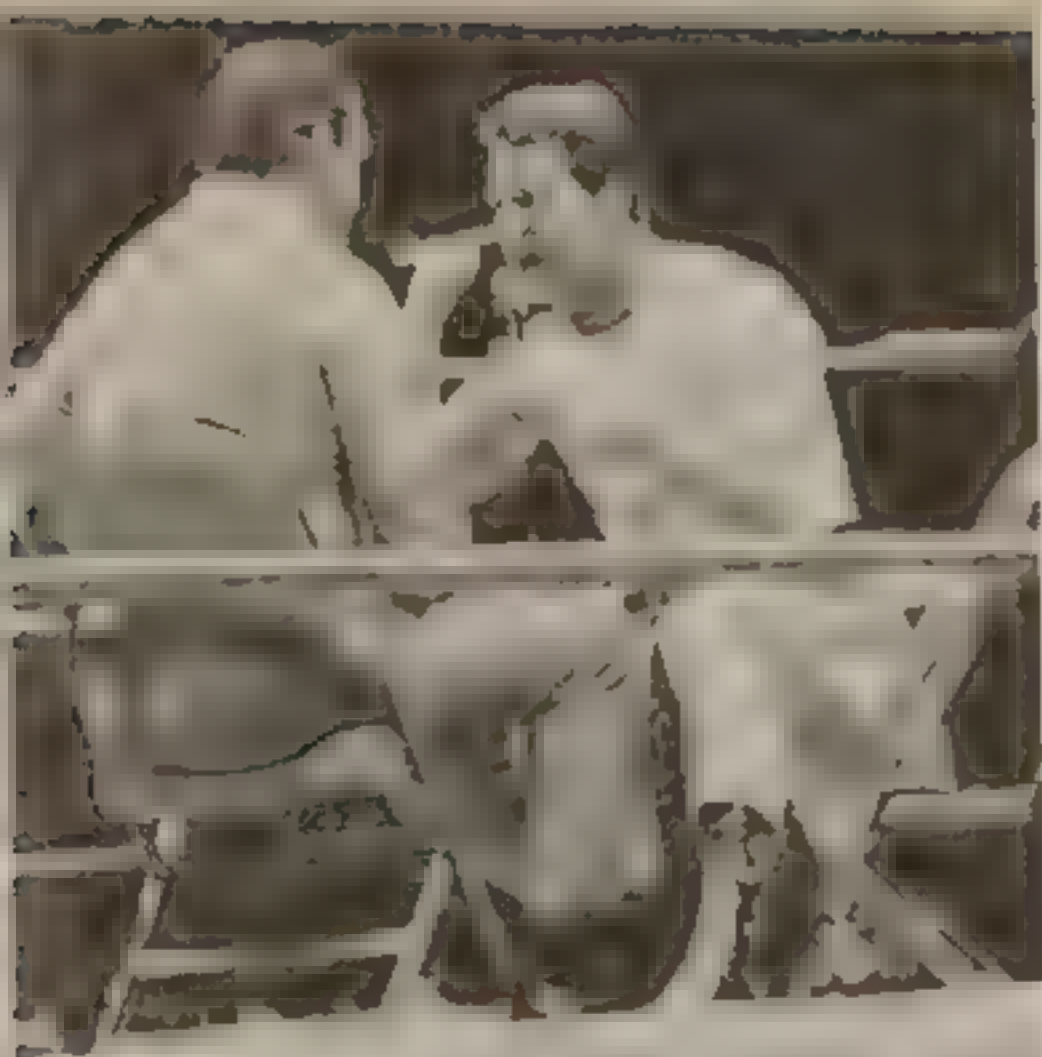
ting Federation, things have changed quite a bit since Piper returned from the filming of *Body Slam* and demanded his TV time segment on WWF Wrestling broadcasts back from Adrian Adonis. He's about to team with Hogan, he's feuding with Adonis and former partner Ace Orton, and, believe it or not, he has become a fan favorite. That's right! Rowdy Roddy Piper has turned good!

Actually, as is usually the case, the truth is probably somewhere between these two versions. Hogan

and Piper are a very unlikely tag team and their association is based on a mutual hatred for Adonis, Orton, and Paul Orndorff. In fact, on a recent television interview, Piper told Hogan that he will never shake hands with him and that "If I want to tag you and you don't tag off, I'll slap your face and leave you lying here." That's what friends are for!

And although he's feuding with Adonis, Orton, and Orndorff, some observers have speculated that Piper is just using this as a front to set





Above: Piper taunts Bruno Sammartino during a live "Piper's Pit" last year. Above right: Now that Piper is a fan favorite in the WWF, will his 1983 Mid-Atlantic feud with Greg Valentine be renewed?

up Hogan, once his most hated rival, for the ultimate sting, the final embarrassment that would send the World champion fleeing out of the WWF. Certainly, Hogan would not be too surprised. He has publicly stated that after the Orndorff incident, he will never trust anybody again. You can safely assume that he includes Piper in that proclamation.

The most surprising part of this whole scenario is that the fans love—absolutely love—Roddy Piper, so much so that the 231-pound native of Glasgow, Scotland, a two-time "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year," is now the most popular wrestler in the entire world. When he walks out of the dressing room, the fans go crazy. It's been said that there is a very thin line between love and hate. Piper has more than proven the point.

But the love is not returned. The fans still rank pretty low on Piper's list of priorities, which, in no particular order, include fame (regaining "Piper's Pit"), fortune (as in big money), Hollywood (he's still fielding movie offers), and destroying his enemies (Orndorff, Adonis, Orton). In fact, Piper seems to regard with distaste the cheers of the fans and usually ignores the crowd.

So Roddy turning good is only

"turning good" in the loosest interpretation of the phrase. You'll never see him shaking hands with the fans, like Koko B. Ware, or talking about how much he needs the fans' support, like Rick Steamboat, or discarding his rulebreaking tendencies for scientific techniques, like Ted DiBiase. Turning good simply means that Piper has fallen into disfavor with the people whom the fans regard as "bad."

Call it innocence by association.

There can be little doubt, however, that Piper's return, whether as a fan favorite or rulebreaker, was the shot-in-the-arm that the WWF so sorely needed. The post-WrestleMania 2 cooling-off period lasted longer than anybody could have suspected and attendance was down in almost all areas. Hogan was not involved in one heated feud until the Orndorff incident and fans were getting sick of seeing him against an overmatched Adrian Adonis.

Call it coincidence. Piper was in Hollywood while all this wasn't going on.

And while The Machines captured the imagination of the fans for a while, Andre the Giant—The Giant Machine—decided to take a three-month vacation from wrestling to make a movie in England, which could only lessen interest. It has become quickly apparent that there are only three men in the WWF who can fill an arena: Andre the Giant in a mask, Hulk Hogan,

and Roddy Piper. Of the three, only Piper can do it consistently, week in and week out.

Call it charisma.

There's something about Piper that appeals to people's basic interests. He's outspoken, obnoxious, brash, pompous, loud, sneaky, brave, and somewhat ordinary in appearance. Piper does not look like a professional wrestler. He lacks the size and muscular build of a Hogan or an Orndorff and in his trademark kilt looks like, well, a bagpipe player. So you can love him, or hate him, but people's feelings are never indifferent.

One of those people who is most definitely not indifferent is Hulk Hogan, who was pushed to number two in the Most Popular ratings. Despite telling reporters he would never trust anyone to be his tag team partner again, it wasn't long before he was teaming with Piper. The two form a team as strange as the mating of a mongoose and a cobra.

During their matches, the crowd is transfixed by the two men's very different temperaments. Many times it looks as if they are only a heated word away from turning on each other. Roddy Piper is, after all, still Roddy Piper.

Piper is back, and as always, out of the friction between him and everyone he touches comes heat. A lot of heat.

Roddy Piper is red hot. □

PRO Wrestling **ILLUSTRATED**

TV
SPORTS

CLOSE-UP

THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS

THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS are comprised of Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, and Buddy Roberts . . . When the team was first formed in 1978, Gordy and Hayes had already been wrestling in singles matches throughout the Southeast for several years . . . The duo's favorite rock 'n' roll song at the time was Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Freebird," so they in turn called themselves "The Freebirds" . . . Rose to quick fame in the Mid-South (now UWF) area . . . In April 1980, Hayes' neck was injured by Junkyard Dog, Buck Robley, and Ted DiBiase . . . Hayes was put out of action for several weeks . . . One night, Hayes and Gordy were out drinking and partying with Buddy Roberts, who had already established himself as a significant singles wrestler in Montreal and the Midwest, and as a tag team wrestler with Jerry Brown in Montreal, Kansas City, and California . . . Hayes and Gordy felt that Roberts could keep up with them as both a wrestler and as a drinking partner, and so they asked him to join the team . . . Roberts agreed, and in 1980 the threesome was forged . . . Hayes had become manager of the team at this time, and he guided Roberts and Gordy to the Mid-South U.S. tag team title . . . In the fall of 1980, the 'Birds migrated to the Georgia area . . . Hayes' neck was getting better, and The Freebirds began wrestling six-man matches . . . They captured the Georgia tag team title and the Continental tag team belts . . . The Freebirds set a legal precedent in the NWA when they became The Freebirds Incorporated, which gave them a loophole whereby without advance notice they could choose any two of the three team members who would wrestle on any given day . . . In the middle of 1981, Hayes and Gordy began quarreling on the road . . . Roberts didn't want to get mixed in the middle of an argument, so he took the opportunity to take a well-needed, and well-deserved, vacation . . . During a tag team match in Pensacola, Florida, Hayes and Gordy finally split apart and began a feud that would last for almost eight months . . . Hayes teamed with Andre the Giant and several other fan favorites, while Gordy allied himself with Jimmy Snuka . . . The team of Gordy and Snuka captured the Georgia tag team belts from the combination of Steve O and Ted DiBiase in Augusta, Georgia, on July 6, 1981 . . . Gordy and Snuka held the belts until being defeated by Michael Hayes and former NFL star Otis Sistrunk in Atlanta on September 27, 1981 . . . One month later, Hayes and Sistrunk had to retire the belts because Sistrunk was unable to wrestle and defend the belts on a regular basis . . . Several months later, Hayes was being triple-teamed by several wrestlers, and Gordy ran into the ring to rescue his old friend . . . Hayes and Gordy renewed their friendship and have been the closest of buddies and teammates ever since . . . By early 1982, Hayes and Gordy were teaming



regularly once again . . . On July 2, 1982, Hayes and Gordy defeated John Studd and Super Destroyer in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to capture the Georgia National tag team belts . . . They held the belts until being defeated by The Samoans in Atlanta on August 29, 1982 . . . Gordy teamed briefly with Tito Santana for a few matches . . . Shortly thereafter, Hayes and Gordy traveled to the World Class area . . . Buddy Roberts joined them in Texas . . . Initially, the 'Birds were friends of the Von Erichs . . . But on Christmas night 1982, an incident occurred that would begin one of the most violent feuds in wrestling history . . . Kerry Von Erich was wrestling NWA World champion Ric Flair in a cage with Hayes as special referee . . . When Kerry and Flair were both dazed after a mugging collision, Hayes lifted Kerry and placed him on top of the champion . . . Kerry wouldn't accept the title under such circumstances . . . Hayes was outraged, and he called Kerry an idiot for not accepting the belt . . . Hayes left the cage, and as Kerry left, Gordy slammed the cage door in his face . . . The Freebirds claimed the World Class six-man title . . . For the next year and a half, the 'Birds feuded with the Von Erichs over the six-man title, and the championship changed hands between the two teams several times . . . Early 1984 saw the 'Birds release their first rock music video, "Badstreet U.S.A." . . . That song replaced "Freebird" as their ring entrance theme . . . Traveled to the AWA in mid-1984 for two weeks, but left due to a lack of competition . . . Traveled to the WWF for a month, but left when the WWF tried to split them up as a team . . . Early 1985 saw Hayes travel to Florida while Roberts and Gordy wrestled intermittently in Texas . . . Hayes brought all three 'Birds to Florida, where they captured the U.S. tag team belts . . . Left for the AWA in March 1985 . . . Hayes became involved in a feud with then-AWA World champion Rick Martel . . . The Freebirds also began feuding with AWA World tag team champions The Road Warriors . . . December 1985 saw the 'Birds return to Texas once again . . . Initially they were befriended by the Von Erichs, but the roots of their feud were too deep, and before long the two teams were at war again . . . May 1986 saw the 'Birds sign the most lucrative contract ever for a team to wrestle in the UWF—\$1 million . . . Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts triple-teamed Steve Williams, piledriving him on a concrete floor and landing him in the hospital . . . Williams' friend, Ted DiBiase, suffered the same injury at the hands of the 'Birds in Atlanta in 1981 . . . Also feuding currently with Bill Watts . . . Hayes has been acting as color commentator on UWF broadcasts . . . On May 30, 1986, Gordy won a tournament to determine the first UWF heavyweight champion, defeating Hacksaw Duggan in the final round . . . The Freebirds are certain to be a dominant force in wrestling for many, many years to come.

Scouting Report.

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED LOOK AT WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

In this magazine version of the TV counterpart seen on SuperStation WTBS, Pro Wrestling Illustrated Scouting Reports will examine the relative strengths and weaknesses of wrestling's top stars. There will be no punches pulled as the sport's athletes undergo the harshest scrutiny anywhere in the wrestling world



KOKO B. WARE

HOME TOWN: Union City, TN
HEIGHT: 5'9"
WEIGHT: 229
YEARS AS PRO: 7
RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Excellent aerial attack. Ware's abilities rival those of Kevin Von Erch's or Bobby Eaton's.
- Science. Ware's technical wrestling abilities are far above average.
- Strength. He is deceptively strong, and thus is able to lull his opponent into a state of overconfidence

WEAKNESSES:

- Stamina. Maintains his abilities in a short match, but tends to tire easily in lengthy bouts.
- Leverage. Lack of height provides poor leverage for application of many holds.
- Concentration. Spends too much time with fans before a match, rather than mentally reviewing strategy

OTHER COMMENTS: Teamed with Norvell Austin as The PYTs . . . Wrestled solo for most of his career in the Mid-Southern area, feuding with Randy Savage, King Kong Bundy, and Rick Rude . . . Recently entered the WWF area

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: Having just entered the WWF, Koko B. Ware is going to have to battle extremely hard to establish himself in an area bulging with fine talent. That prospect seems unlikely, and Ware would do well to travel to an area such as the UWF or Florida in order to further his career



DICK MURDOCH

HOME TOWN: Waxahachie, TX
HEIGHT: 6'4"
WEIGHT: 280
YEARS AS PRO: 18
RATING: No. 8 in World Championship

STRENGTHS:

- Brainbuster. This devastating finishing maneuver boasts a 92 percent effectiveness rating
- Resilience. His mental strength is evident as he is able to battle the immediate effects of pain during a tough match.
- Experience. Nearly two full decades have seen "Capt. Redneck" battle the sport's toughest stars

WEAKNESSES:

- Instability. Has flip-flopped from fan favorite to rulebreaker several times in his career
- Chronic injuries. Years of beatings have taken their career toll, and he is nagged by lingering elbow and knee pain
- Trapped in Dusty Rhodes' shadow. Still remembered by many as Dusty's partner, and not as his own man.

OTHER COMMENTS: Wrestled for a time in tag team with Dusty Rhodes as "The Outlaws" . . . Voted "Inspirational Wrestler of the Year" in 1974 . . . Held the WWF tag team title with Adrian Adonis . . . A three-time Missouri champion and former North American champion.

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: A lengthy tour of Japan preceded Murdoch's recent arrival in the World Championship area. "Capt. Redneck" is now in the process of working to reestablish himself as a top contender to Ric Flair's NWA World title, and could conceivably challenge Nikita Koloff for the U.S. belt as well



BRETT SAWYER

HOME TOWN: St. Petersburg, FL

HEIGHT: 5'11"

WEIGHT: 240

YEARS AS PRO: 7

RATING: No. 2 in World Class, No. 8 tag team

STRENGTHS:

- Low center of gravity makes it tough for an opponent to take Sawyer off his feet.
- Power. Sawyer possesses enormous upper body strength, which he utilizes well in powerslams.
- Creative. Sawyer is constantly inventing new moves and strategies to add to his ring arsenal.

WEAKNESSES:

- Mentally unstable. Sawyer's sobriquet of "Mad Dog" is for his attitude as much as his ring style.
- Susceptible to cuts. Sawyer tends to bleed easily in a particularly rugged match.
- Reckless. His arrogance can and has cost him victories.

OTHER COMMENTS: His 1983 feud with Tommy Rich was one of the Georgia area's bloodiest battles ever . . . The brother of Brett Wayne Sawyer . . . Trained under the auspices of Jack Brisco and Eddie Graham early in his career . . . Now teaming with Matt Borne in the World Class area.

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: Sawyer is wrestling well. He is the World Class Texas champion, and has captured the World Class tag belts with Matt Borne. It is not inconceivable that Sawyer could be successful in a campaign to capture Chris Adams' World Class heavyweight title.



J. J. JAGGERS

HOME TOWN: Dunlap, KS

HEIGHT: 6'1"

WEIGHT: 265

YEARS AS PRO: 13

RATING: unrated

STRENGTHS:

- Attitude. Jagers wrestles like a juggernaut, and doesn't allow pain or weakness to slow his onslaught.
- Opposition. Wherever he has wrestled, has always maintained a quality level of opposition.
- Stamina. Maintains his strength well past the half-hour mark.

WEAKNESSES:

- Weight. Shedding about 20 or 30 excess pounds would increase his speed dramatically.
- Poor scientific repertoire. Relies too much on the kick-and-punch style.
- Telegraphs his elbowdrop too clearly, allowing opponents to roll out of the way.

OTHER COMMENTS: Reunited with his father, whom he hadn't seen in many years, in 1980 courtesy of *The Wrestler* magazine . . . A former Pacific Northwest heavyweight champion . . . Recently formed The Kansas Jayhawks with Dutch Mantel.

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: It is clear that Jagers has made a commitment to Mantel and the Kansas Jayhawks. The 'Hawks have been well received by the fans and are looking to test themselves against the NWA's best teams, including The Midnight Express, the Koloffs, and The Four Horsemen.



ANDRE THE GIANT

HOME TOWN: Grenoble, France

HEIGHT: 7'5"

WEIGHT: 497

YEARS AS PRO: 15

RATING: No. 5 Most Popular

STRENGTHS:

- Enthusiasm. Identity as Giant Machine has provided a renewed enthusiasm to Andre's career.
- Distracting. Opponents are more concerned with revealing his identity than finding a way to defeat him.
- Awesome. Simply by virtue of his size and demeanor, Andre/Machine is an incredible sight, and uses that size effectively.

WEAKNESSES:

- Vision. Andre is not used to wearing a mask, and his vision appears to be impaired by it.
- Weight. Needs to lose a great deal of weight for both professional and health reasons.
- Speed. Can't get up off the mat quickly enough when he is dropped to his back.

OTHER COMMENTS: It doesn't seem as if we're going out on a limb by saying that Giant Machine and Andre the Giant are one and the same! . . . Andre, in fact, did wrestle in Japan as Giant Machine long before WWF fans in the U.S. had ever heard of the Machines . . . If Bobby Heenan can successfully unmask Giant Machine to reveal Andre, it is said that Andre will be suspended for life.

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: It is unlikely that Andre's Machine charade will last very much longer, and it's too bad that the Machines seem to be proliferating: Hulk Machine, Steele Machine, Super Machine, and so forth. We hope Andre returns to a normal career as soon as possible.



BARRY WINDHAM

HOME TOWN: Pampa, Texas

HEIGHT: 6'4"

WEIGHT: 285

YEARS AS PRO: 9

RATING: No. 3 in Florida

STRENGTHS:

- Texas tough and street smart. Bass can seldom be outbrawled or outsmarted.
- Excellent strategist. Whether or not one approves of his tactics, he shapes the rules to his own advantage.
- Pacing. Bass will dictate the style of a match, not allowing an opponent to exploit his weaknesses.

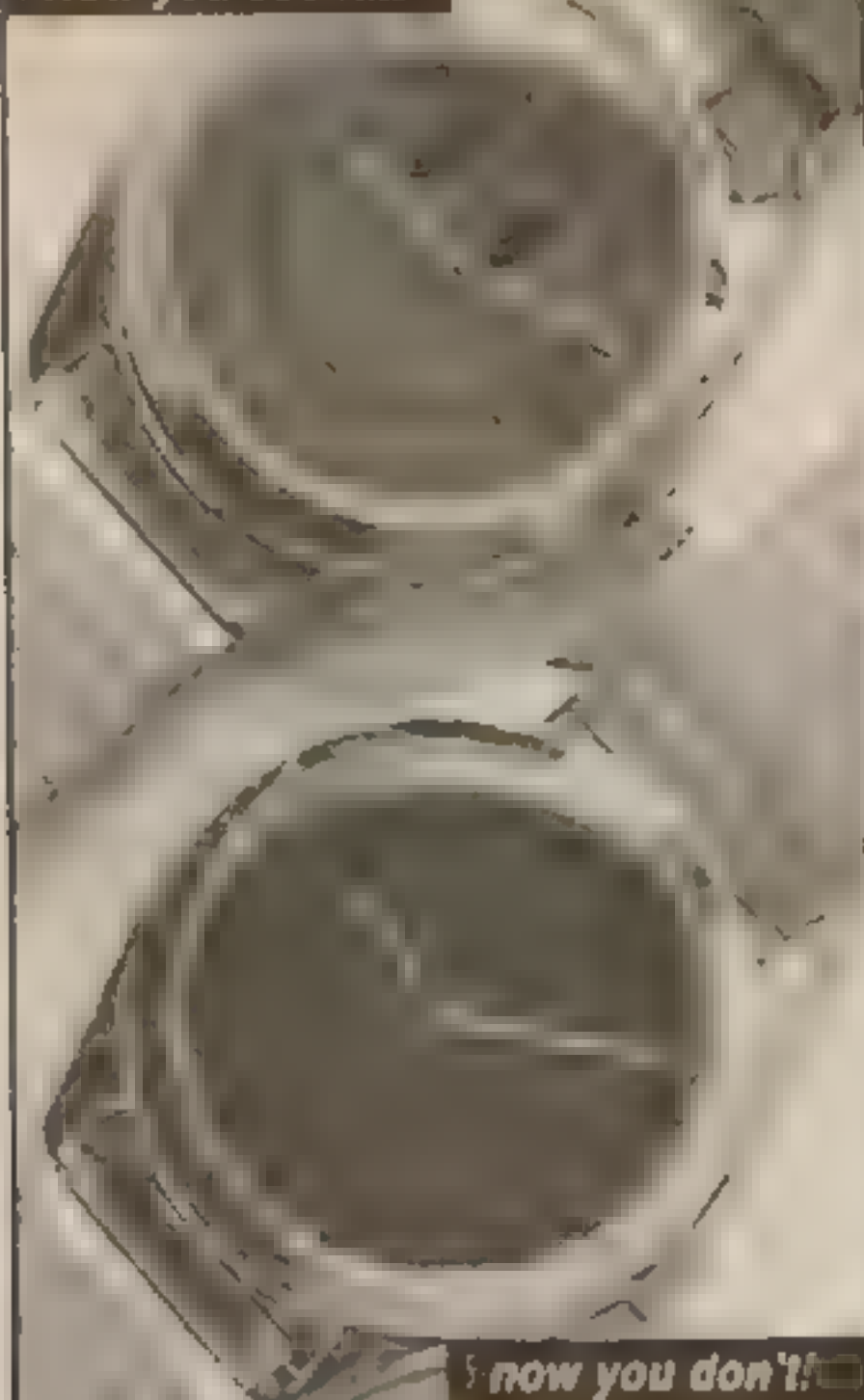
WEAKNESSES:

- Technique. Once a great technical wrestler, Bass has let his scientific skills deteriorate considerably.
- Emotional. Gets too involved in lengthy, physically debilitating feuds.
- Needs managerial guidance to achieve maximum success in the sport.

OTHER COMMENTS: Recently lost the Florida title to Barry Windham . . . Attended West Texas State University . . . Has a long-standing feud with Barry Windham and his father, Blackjack Mulligan . . . Called by many "The King of the Bullrope Matches" . . . Managed previously in Florida by J.J. Dillon.

OUTLOOK FOR '86-'87: The first thing Bass will set his sights on is regaining the Florida title. Perhaps Bass should set those sights higher: Capturing the Southern title from Lex Luger and gaining title shots with NWA World champion Ric Flair would definitely be a step in the right direction.

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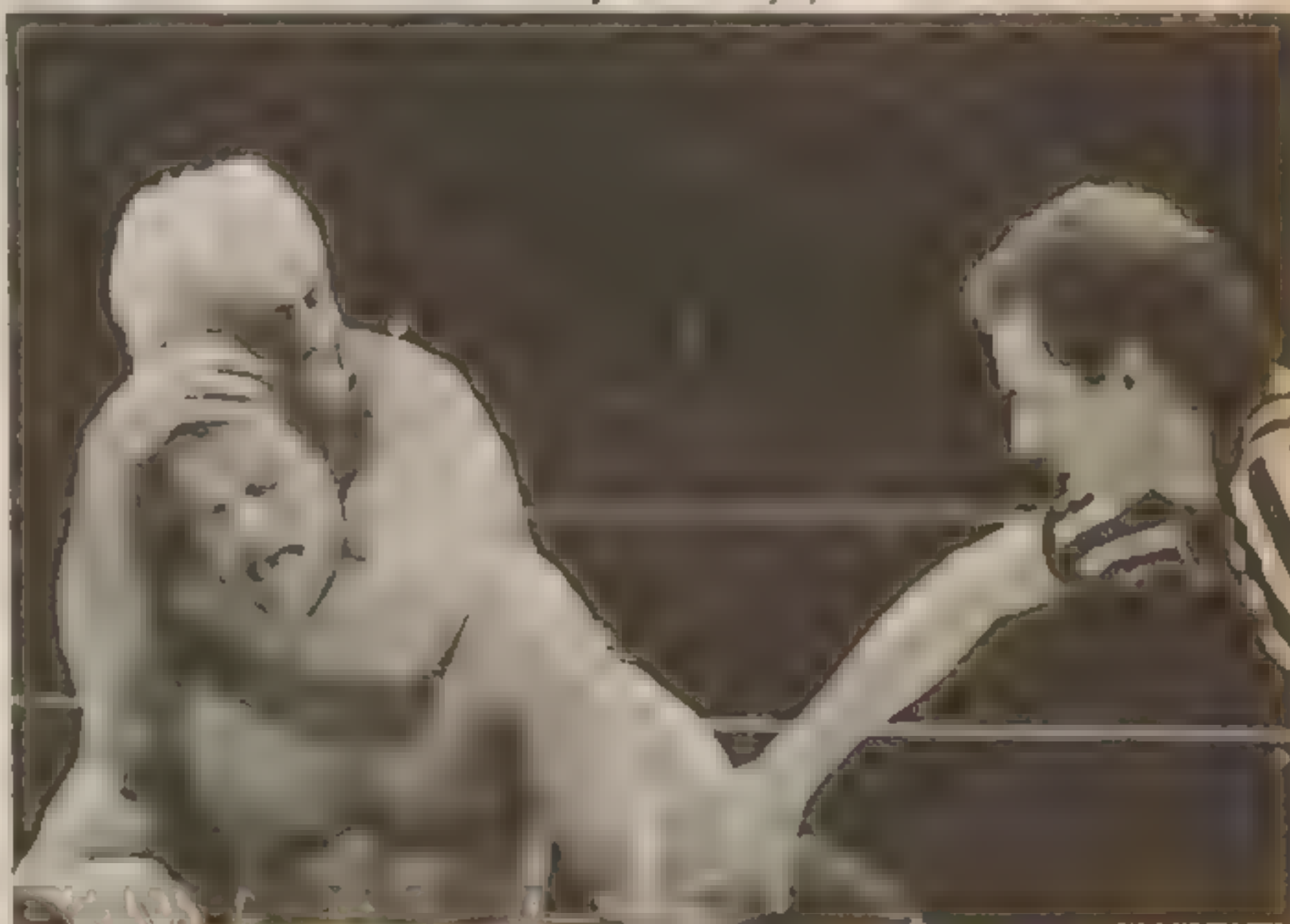
(Continued from page 8)

was held on Labor Day in Daytona Beach, Florida, and once again there were some amazing matches. Most notable was the rematch between NWA World champion **Ric Flair** and Southern champion **Lex Luger**. It was a best two-out-of-three-falls match that saw Flair pin Luger in the figure-four in fall number one before Luger used a reverse cradle to pin Flair and even things up. The third fall was a classic and ended in a draw after the 60-minute time limit.

In the other matches: **The Fabulous Ones** defeated **The Sheep-**

was an extremely bloody match that ended when Tully went for the sling-shot suplex and Wahoo blocked it and small-packaged Blanchard for the victory. "This is one of the proudest moments of my career," said a smiling McDaniel after the match. "Blanchard is one of the slimiest characters I've ever encountered and he deserved this after all the people he's hurt and things he's said."

Harley Race continues to dominate WWF tournaments. Handsome Harley pinned **Rick Steamboat** in



NWA World champion Ric Flair has Lex Luger immobilized with a headlock. Flair and Luger wrestled a magnificent 60-minute draw at the third annual Battle of the Belts card in Florida.

herders, **Kendall Windham** won by disqualification over Bahamas champion **Chris Champion**, AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** beat **Kendo Nagasaki** by DQ when **Sir Oliver Humperdink** interfered with a kendo stick, **The Road Warriors** and **The Shock Troops** were both disqualified, **The White Ninja** won the U.S. junior heavyweight title from **Tim Horner**, and **Barry Windham** wrestled the Florida belt from **Cowboy Ron Bass**.

Wahoo McDaniel is the new National champion. McDaniel defeated **Tully Blanchard**, who held the belt since March 4, 1986, in a rare NWA card at the Los Angeles Forum. It

the final round of the **Sam Muchnick** Superstars Elimination Trophy Tournament before 10,500 fans in St. Louis. Race pinned **Brian Blair** in the first round, drew a bye in the second round, and pinned **Junkyard Dog** in round three ... **Fire and Flame** lost and regained their Mid-Southern tag team titles in just three days. They lost the belts to **Hillbilly Elmer** and **Cousin Junior** in a televised match, but regained them in a Labor Day titles vs. masks rematch.

The **Ted DiBiase**, **Steve Williams**, and **Hacksaw Duggan** vs. **The Freebirds** feud has reached mammoth proportions in the UWF.

Williams and DiBiase interfered in a recent match involving **Terry Gordy** and **Buddy Roberts** and did a job on both Freebirds before **Michael Hayes** came on and also got a piece of the action. All three Freebirds were sent flying back to the dressing room. **Kabuki** has "invaded" the Mid-Southern region and is being managed by **Tojo Yamamoto**.

AWA officials still have not announced plans for filling the Americas title, which was stripped from **Sgt. Slaughter** after he failed to meet the quota for defenses. Rumor has it that the belt will not be filled for some time, but **Boris Zukhov** is petitioning AWA President **Stanley Blackburn** for a tournament to satisfy the vacancy. Zukhov, a Russian, would obviously like to be the AWA's answer to **Nikita Koloff**, who won the United States championship from Magnum T.A. The Kremlin is having a field day!

That's all for now. See you at the matches

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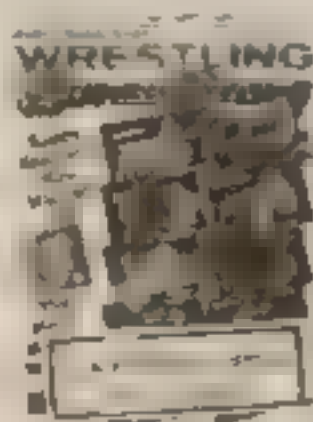
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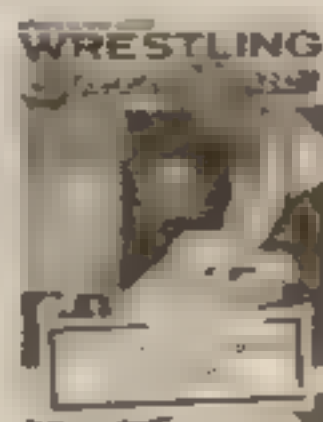
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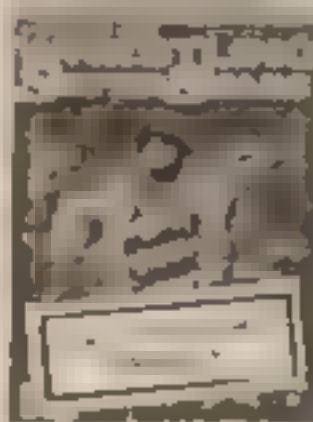
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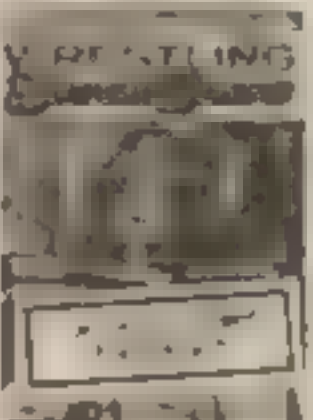
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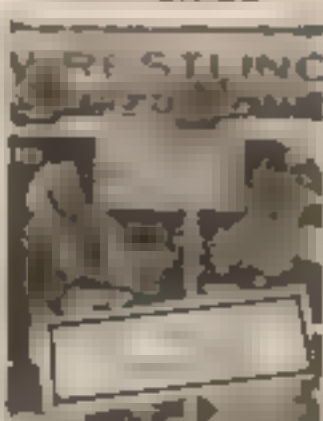
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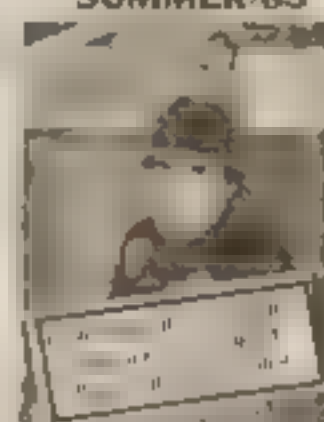
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)

would love to get on the field and swing the bat against Dwight Gooden. But I guess I'm going to have to settle for Rose and Somers.

PETER KING: That appears to be the case, although with your incredible athletic prowess, it's hard to believe that you wouldn't excel at any sport. During those months off after you left the WWF, did you ever consider another line of work?

SNUKA: Believe me, brother, those were trying times for the Superfly. I needed the peace and serenity of my home for a few months, but I was tormented by knowing that I would have to make a decision shortly. My family was very helpful, but finally I had to make a decision on my own. Jimmy Snuka is a professional wrestler; it is in his blood. To have done something else would have been to leave a part of myself behind, and that is not good for the soul.

SAKS: But when you returned to wrestling, it was in Hawaii and California. Why didn't you go back to the WWF, where you would have been welcomed instantly?

SNUKA: Ah, but one cannot spend his entire life backtracking and returning to where he is accepted. There were still many hard feelings in the WWF and I was not ready to go back to a place where I would be thrown into the turmoil. This was not right for me.

KING: And anyway, who wants to go back to a place where the head honcho is calling you a basket case?

SNUKA: That is not for me to discuss at this time.

APTER: So, in other words, you were looking to make a slow comeback.

SNUKA: I do not feel that I had to make a comeback, brother Bill, because I had never gone downhill. Recall that when I left the WWF, I was still one of the top contenders. Leaving was a personal decision. My return, not comeback, to wrestling was in Hawaii and California because those places offered me ... Ah, seventh inning stretch time, one of my favorite



Snuka finds himself double-teamed by Rose and Somers. "The Superfly" would like to find the right full-time partner to challenge and defeat the AWA World tag team champions.

parts of a ballgame.

SNUKA, APTER, KING, and SAKS (together with the Wrigley fans and Cubs' announcer Harry Caray) sing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame."

SAKS: This really is great. I should go to a game once in a while.

APTER: It's okay, but I much prefer a barbeque with the family. The smell of the burning coals, the food. Umm!

KING: Excuse me, guys, but it's the bottom of the seventh and we're running out of time. Let's get back to business. Jimmy, when you came to the AWA for WrestleRock '86, the crowd was with you right away. How did that make you feel?

SNUKA: Well, Peter, I learned the hard way that the cheers of the fans are much sweeter to the ears than booing. I had some doubts about whether I wanted to wrestle in the AWA full time, but after hearing the reaction of the crowd, I didn't have any doubts.

APTER: And how about now? Do you have any regrets about your decision?

SNUKA: The AWA has treated me very well, and I have no complaints about that, but guys like [Col.] DeBeers and Rose and Somers really get my goat. I guess that's what it's all about, you know, one guy feuding against another, but there's no place in any sport, especially wrestling, for DeBeers' racial remarks. I'd like to twist his face in half.

SAKS: From what I recall, DeBeers refused to wrestle you because he didn't want to get into the ring with a black man.

SNUKA: And I'm not even black, I'm Polynesian, which made his remark even more ridiculous. People like DeBeers who judge people by their skin color are a menace. When he made that remark, I wanted to jump into the ring and defend the honor of all the black people in the world. Now I'm fighting their battle, too. DeBeers is a bad man.

KING: Despite your anger with DeBeers, you seem most hung up about getting a shot at Nick Bockwinkel's title. Now, from what I can tell, you have nothing against Bockwinkel, so why are you so intent on defeating him?

SNUKA: The belt, brother, the belt. It's what we all strive for, what we're all in this for in the first place. Nick Bockwinkel is a fine man, a different man from what I can tell. He has changed, just as I changed, and that is good. But he is the competition, the man with the AWA World title, and that's what I want. I realize that we're both popular with the fans, but my desire is one shot at the belt. That's all I ask.

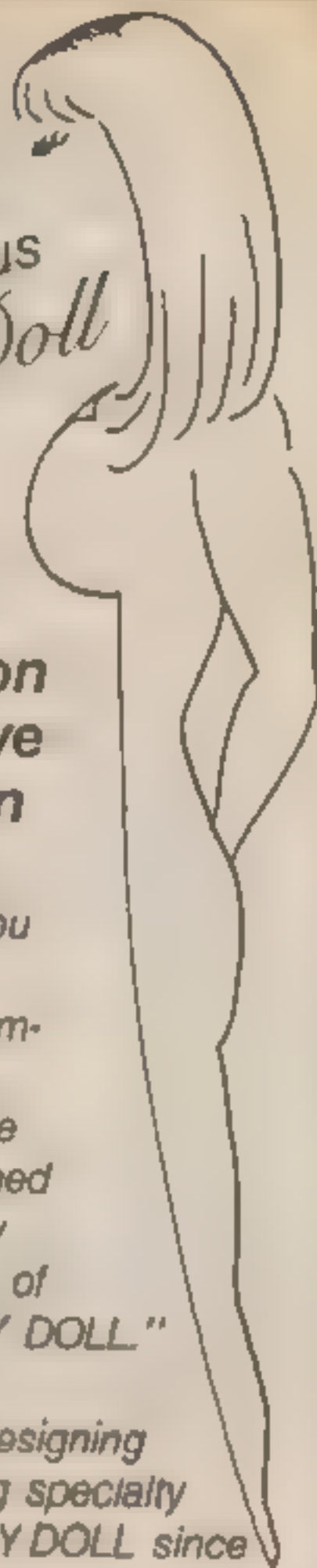
APTER: But I think it would be safe to say that you would settle for the tag belts.

SNUKA: One does not settle for a world title, brother Bill, one works hard to accomplish that goal and revels in its achievement. Whether it's with Scott Hall, Curt Hennig, or Greg Gagne, I intend to beat Rose and Somers. I've worked hard for it. My mind and body is in peak condition, but it will take something more. I'm willing to give whatever it takes. Look at those guys out there on the field. The Cubs are 32 games behind, but they keep on trying. That's the only thing anybody has a right to ask for.

SAKS: Make that 32½. The Mets won.

SNUKA: Whatever, it doesn't make a difference. What matters is to try your hardest and be at peace with yourself. I had inner turmoil at one time, but I have achieved serenity. The Superfly has come to terms. □

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This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; *PWI*, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

ARCO ARENA (Sacramento, CA): Mike Rotundo & Dan Spivey beat Brett Hart & John Valiant . . . The Super Machine beat John Studd by disqualification . . . Hercules Hernandez defeated Cousin Luke . . . The Giant Machine beat King Kong Bundy by countout . . . Tito Santana and Adrian Adonis battled to a draw . . . Billy Jack Haynes defeated Bob Orton . . . King Tonga beat Moondog Rex . . . Siva Afi defeated Moondog Spot . . . Brickhouse Brown beat The Blue Demon.

—Mark Massi

BAYFRONT CENTER (St. Petersburg, FL): Mark Starr defeated The Marauder . . . Sean Royal beat Bob Cook . . . Tyree Pride defeated Chris Champion by countout . . . The Fabulous Ones beat The Cuban Assassin & Dr. Death . . . Kendall Windham beat Cowboy Ron Bass by countout . . . Lex Lugar & Barry Windham defeated The Shock Troops in a bullrope match . . . Barry Windham won an 18-man, \$25,000 streetfight battle royal.

—Phil Russell

BROOME COUNTY ARENA (Binghamton, NY): The British Bulldogs defeated Jimmy Jack & Hoss Funk . . . Jake Roberts beat Rick Steamboat via countout . . . Adrian Adonis pinned Cousin Luke . . . Pedro Morales pinned Terry Gibbs . . . Siva Afi defeated Iron Mike Sharpe . . . S.D. Jones beat Les Thornton.

—Chris Bors

CIVIC CENTER (Monroe, LA): Bill Watts & Steve Williams defeated Michael Hayes & Buddy Roberts in a Louisiana streetfight . . . John Tatum defeated The Missing Link . . . Terry Taylor successfully defended his TV title against Rick Steiner . . . One Man Gang beat Gary Young . . . Joe Savoldi beat The Libyan . . . Brett Wayne beat Ken Massey.

—Shawn Jones

DORTON ARENA (Raleigh, NC): Superstar Bill Dundee defeated The Italian Stallion . . . Ric Flair won by disqualification over Dusty Rhodes . . . Buddy Landell pinned Sam Houston . . . Don Kernodle & Dick Murdoch beat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev . . . Magnum T.A. and Arn Anderson battled to a draw . . . Tully Blanchard beat Wahoo McDaniel . . . The Midnight Express defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express with the aid of Jim Cornette's tennis racket.

—Lori Thornton

CIVIC AUDITORIUM (Omaha, NE): The Midnight Rockers beat Tom Stohs & Tony Leone . . . Ali Khan defeated Jake Milleman . . . Buddy Rose & Doug Somers beat Curt Hennig & Scott Hall by countout . . . Col. DeBeers defeated Pete Sanchez . . . Greg Gagne & Jerry Blackwell beat Chris Curtis & Rick Renslow . . . Sheri Martel defeated Princess Jasmine . . . Jerry Blackwell beat Rick Renslow . . . Larry Zbyszko defeated Alan West . . . Brad Rheingans & Steve Olsonowski drew with The Maxx Brothers . . . Nick Bockwinkel defeated Rocky Stone . . . Scott Hall & Curt Hennig beat Earthquake Ferris & Mike Tolos . . . Jerry Blackwell & The Midnight Rockers beat Nord The Barbarian, Boris Zukhov, & Ali Khan by disqualification.

FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM (Indianapolis): Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes by disqualification . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Midnight Express . . . Nikita Koloff and Magnum T.A. were both counted out . . . Tully Blanchard defeated Wahoo McDaniel . . . Ole & Arn Anderson drew with Manny Fernandez & Ron Garvin . . . Jimmy Valiant defeated Shaska Whatley . . . Jimmy Garvin beat Todd Champion . . . Steve Regal beat Denny Brown.

—Jeffrey D. Lance

THE FORUM (Montreal): Hulk Hogan beat Magnificent Muraco . . . Randy Savage beat George Steele by disqualification . . . Jacques & Raymond Rougeau defeated Hoss & Jimmy Jack Funk . . . Rick Steamboat drew with Jake Roberts . . . Junkyard Dog beat Adrian Adonis by disqualification . . . King Tonga & Siva Afi defeated Bob Orton & Rene Goulet . . . Harley Race beat Cousin Luke.

—Stephan Thibault

JOE LOUIS ARENA (Detroit): Hulk Hogan defeated Adrian Adonis . . . Billy Jack Haynes beat Iron Mike Sharpe . . . Harley Race pinned Cousin Luke . . . King Tonga and Bob Orton battled to a draw . . . King Kong Bundy & John Studd beat The Killer Bees . . . Randy Savage & Jake Roberts beat Junkyard Dog & George Steele by disqualification.

—Laura Smith

PAUL SAUVE ARENA (Montreal): Dino Bravo and The Great Samu wrestled to a draw for the International title . . . Rick Martel was awarded the victory over Steve Strong in a taped fist match . . . The Long Riders defeated Tom Zenk & Dan Kroffat . . . Abdullah the Butcher defeated Man Mountain Moore . . . Alofa beat Sheik Ali

—Anne Charron

REPORT

LOS ANGELES SPORTS ARENA (Los Angeles): John Studd & King Kong Bundy defeated The Giant Machine & Super Machine by disqualification ... Paul Orndorff pinned Tito Santana ... Mike Rotundo & Dan Spivey beat The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff ... Greg Valentine drew with Brian Blair ... Hercules Hernandez pinned Tiger Chung Lee ... Jim Brunzell battled Brutus Beefcake to a draw.

—Martin R. Abila

MEMORIAL ARENA (Fayetteville, NC): The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Midnight Express in a two-out-of-three-falls match ... Jimmy Valiant pinned Paul Jones in a lumberjack match ... Manny Fernandez beat Baron Von Raschke in a Mexican death match ... The Barbarian & Shaska Whately defeated Ronnie Garvin & Sam Houston ... The Warlord beat Mark Fleming ... Black Bart pinned Denny Brown ... Hector Guerrero defeated Thunderfoot.

—Lisa Milbourne

THE MET CENTER (Minneapolis): Paul Orndorff won by disqualification over Hulk Hogan ... The Machines beat King Kong Bundy & John Studd by disqualification ... The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff defeated Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake ... The Killer Bees drew with Mike Rotundo & Dan Spivey ... Hercules Hernandez won by count-out over Tito Santana.

—Scott Badger

MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM (Biloxi, MS): The Freebirds defeated Bill Watts, Ted DiBiase, & Terry Taylor in a six-man streetfight match ... Hack-saw Duggan defeated One Man Gang by disqualification when Skandor Akbar, who was barred from the building, came into the ring ... John Tatum beat The Missing Link ... Brett Wayne Sawyer wrestled to a draw with Jack Victory.

—Alfie Suverall

NORTHLANDS COLISEUM (Edmonton, Alberta): "Dr. D" David Shultz defeated Kerry Brown ... Owen Hart, Ben Bassarab, & Johnny Smith beat Duke Myers, Gama Singh, & Vladimir Krupoff in a six-man elimination tag team match ... Con Kovidis defeated Drago Thomas ... Keith Hart defeated Mike Hammer.

—Darrell Horst

SAM HOUSTON COLISEUM (Houston): The Fantastics defeated Eddie Gilbert & Sting by disqualification ... Hack-saw Duggan defeated One Man Gang ... The Missing Link & Ted DiBiase with Dark Journey beat John Tatum & Jack Victory with Missy Hyatt ... The Freebirds defeated Bill Watts, Chavo Guerrero, & Terry Taylor in a six-man tag team match ... Gary Young beat Gustavo Mendoza ... Brett Sawyer defeated Rick Steiner ... Koko Ware beat One Man Gang ... Chavo Guerrero won a \$50,000 two-ring, 20-man battle royal.

—Cathy Norton

RYOGOKU KOKUGIKAN (Tokyo): Stan Hansen pinned Jumbo Tsuruta ... Riki Choshu pinned Killer Khan ... Genichiro Tenryu and Yoshiaki Yatsu battled to a double-countout ... Tiger Mask pinned The Great Kabuki ... Hiro Saito beat Brad Armstrong ... Kimura, Hara, & Tsurumi beat Giant Baba, Ishikawa, & Okuma ... S.S. Machine & Takano defeated Fuyuki & Sonoda ... Inoue & Fuchi defeated Teranishi & Kurisu ... Nakano defeated Ogawa ... Ted DiBiase, Pete Roberts, & The Destroyer defeated Hamaguchi, Kobayashi, & Honaga.

—Shigeru Niina

SYDNEY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER (Sydney, Australia): Jose Luis Rivera defeated Jim Young ... Tony Atlas defeated Terry Gibbs ... S.D. Jones & Paul Roma beat Hoss & Jimmy Jack Funk by disqualification ... Bob Orton beat George Steele by disqualification ... Cpl. Kirchner defeated Nikolai Volkoff ... Velvet McIntyre defeated The Fabulous Moolah by disqualification.

—Jim Micsko

THE SPORTS ARENA (Nashville, TN): Jerry Lawler, Pat Tanaka, & Jeff Jarrett beat Tojo Yamamoto, Tarzan Goto, & Aldo Sato ... The Killer defeated Bam Bam Bigelow by disqualification ... Hillbilly Elmer & Phil Hickerson defeated Fire & Flame by disqualification ... Tracy Smothers won a seven-match tournament to determine the NWA Mid-American champion, defeating Basher of The Mod Squad in the final round.

—Curtis R. McGuirt

OCALA JAI ALAI FRONTON (Ocala, FL): Steve Keirn won a 16-man, \$25,000 steel cage battle royal ... The Fabulous Ones defeated The Shock Troops ... Lex Luger beat Cowboy Ron Bass by disqualification ... Barry & Kendall Windham beat The Cuban Assassin & The Ninja in a double bullrope match ... Tyree Pride beat Chris Champion by countout ... Sean Royal pinned Jerry Grey.

—Larry Goodman

WILL ROGERS COLISEUM (Fort Worth, TX): Rick Rude drew with The Dingo Warrior ... Chris Adams beat Buzz Sawyer ... Killer Brooks defeated Zulu ... Buzz Sawyer & Matt Borne beat Brian Adidas & Mark Youngblood ... Steve Simpson defeated Brad Batten ... Bart Batten defeated Perry Jackson.

—Erik Finigan

RECAP: It appears that Tito Santana has hit quite a slump ... The Machines have appeared throughout the WWF circuit, and have won most of their matches thus far ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express are wrestling to the best of their abilities ... Hulk Hogan's feud with Paul Orndorff is beginning to shift into high gear ... Bam Bam Bigelow suffered a suprising loss ... Rick Rude is picking his opponents carefully in the World Class area.

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Barry Windham Wins Florida Belt



Barry Windham's youth helped him win this war of attrition with Ron Bass.

By PETER KING

DAYTONA BEACH, FL—The Florida title is back in the Windham family, but this time it belongs to Barry, not Kendall. The older Windham brother won the coveted title from Ron Bass on Labor Day at "The Battle of the Belts III."

Bass has had a long-running feud with the Windham family and has humiliated Barry and Kendall on more than one occasion. In fact, Bass won the belt from Kendall on July 15 in Tampa. But this time the Windhams had the last laugh. Barry pinned Bass in an exciting match that did little more than kindle the flame of this burning feud.

"I wanted him and I got him," said an excited Barry Windham after the match. "Ever since that idiot saddled me up and rode me around the ring a few years ago, I've been training and getting ready to get revenge. Let me tell you, though, I'm a long way from being through. I'm gonna grind this belt into his face and run him out of Florida."

That remains to be seen. Bass is a tough individual and he's never been run out of anywhere. Right now, Bass has some regrouping to do, but as he said after losing the belt, "The Windhams haven't seen the last of me."

Hansen-Bockwinkel Feud Goes On

By BILL APTER

ST. PAUL, MN—Nick Bockwinkel is officially recognized as the AWA World champion, but tell that to Stan Hansen.

Hansen, who was stripped of the belt on June 29, is still wrestling in Japan and parts of the United States with the AWA World championship belt. He has defended the title, which he supposedly no longer has, at many Japanese cards and recently appeared with the belt for a match in Birmingham, Alabama, against Jerry Lawler.

This has caused concern among AWA officials, who fear for the integrity of their most important title. For

his part, Bockwinkel is irate. "There's only one champion and that's me," he said. "I was ready to wrestle that night [he was awarded the belt] and I'm ready to wrestle him now, any place at any time. Just name it, Hansen. I'm here."

AWA President Stanley Blackburn is unsure of the proper way to handle this messy situation. Hansen has not been in contact with Blackburn since being stripped of the title, but in a way is still representing the AWA. Bockwinkel, on the other hand, is wearing a tainted belt: He was given the title outright and the controversy this caused has hurt the AWA's image.

Brown Regains Jr. Heavyweight Title

By BILL APTER

GREENVILLE, SC—Denny Brown regained his NWA junior heavyweight championship here on September 1 by pinning Steve Regal, who immediately announced his plans to jump to the World Wrestling Federation.

Regal had won the belt from Brown on August 2 at the last Great American Bash card in Atlanta, but seemed to lack enthusiasm in what would be his final title defense. Brown wrestled aggressively throughout the match and took advantage of Regal's mental errors.

"I haven't had a full night's sleep since I lost the title to Regal," said Brown after the match. "I made some serious mistakes at the Bash card and it cost me dearly. I was intent on regaining the title before the end of the summer and Labor Day suits me just fine. Now, maybe I can get some rest, but first, I have some celebrating to do."



Denny Brown celebrates with his newly won NWA junior heavyweight belt.

With Regal leaving the NWA, Sam Houston, Hector Guerrero, and Mike Jackson figure to offer the stiffest tests to Brown. But Brown says that he is ready for all challengers. "Regal was a very tough opponent, but I know that there are a lot of wrestlers out there who would love to get a piece of my title," said Brown. "Just bring 'em on!"

AROUND THE GLOBE

BIRMINGHAM, AL

Exotic Adrian Street, long one of the most hated men in the Continental region, has become a fan favorite. With Steve Armstrong unconscious on the floor, Tom Pritchard, Jimmy Golden, and Robert Fuller handcuffed Armstrong's tag team partner, The Bullet, to the ropes and triple-teamed him. Street ran into the ring, apparently to help the rulebreaking trio, but to everyone's surprise, Street cleaned house and saved The Bullet from serious injury.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

A tournament has been announced to determine the new World Wrestling Council heavyweight champion. The title was declared vacant several months ago when champion Carlos Colon was temporarily blinded. The tournament is to be spread out over three days with the final round being held in San Juan. Colon is scheduled to compete along with Rick Martel, Terry Funk, Abdullah the Butcher, Bruiser Brody, and others.

DALLAS, TX

Kevin Sullivan, the Devil's favorite son, has invaded Von Erich land. And, he's brought The Purple Haze, Mark Lewin and the devilish Fallen Angel with him. This figures to be an incredible scenario, since the Von Erichs are known for their faith and love of God. They plan to exorcise the Lone Star State of its evil visitor.